

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 01999 290437Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 DHA-02 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3033

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1999

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, US, NU
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: STATE 95109

1. EMB APPRECIATES INFORMATION RE CONSULTATIONS WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

2. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY ASSIST IN CONTACTS WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

--COMMITTEE HEARINGS HAVE BEEN COVERED IN LOCAL MEDIA. GON ORGAN NOVEDADES HIGHLIGHTED TESTIMONY OF GON SUPPORTERS, ESPECIALLY WILSON AND KNOCKED D'ESCOTO AS ANTI-PATRIOTIC AND CHARACTERIZED MOLINA TESTIMONY AS GIVING IMPRESSION OPPOSITION IS FREE IN NICARAGUA TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT. OPPOSITION LA PRENSA, IN LONG ARTICLE APPARENTLY BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH MOLINA, PLAYED UP STATEMENTS OF D'ESCOTO AND MOLINA CHARACTERIZING SERIOUSNESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA.

--BOTH MOLINA AND JESUIT PRIEST ERNESTO CARDENAL, WHO HAS BEEN ON EXTENDED ANTI-GON PROPAGANDA TOUR, HAVE RETURNED TO
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NICARAGUA WITHOUT INCIDENT.

--THE LAST REMAINING SUSPECTS DETAINED FOR SUSPICION OF FSLN INVOLVEMENT HAVE BEEN SET FREE.

--CAPUCHINS' MOST RECENT REPORT OF DISAPPEARANCE WAS IN FEBRUARY AND INVOLVED ONLY ONE INDIVIDUAL. THUS, EVIDENCE

MAY ALREADY BE COMING IN OR IMPROVED COMMAND AND CONTROL
OVER GN.

3. STATE OF SIEGE ISSUE WILL BE DECIDED BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA,
AND HE HAS SAID HE REFUSES TO MAKE SUCH A MOVE UNDER U.S.
PRESSURE. LATEST EMB EFFORT TO INDIRECTLY INFLUENCE SOMOZA
WAS ON APRIL 27. AMB ARGUED CASE FOR LIFTING STATE OF SIEGE
WITH CONGRESS PRESIDENT HUECK WHO IS ONE OF KEY SOMOZA
ADVISORS AND WHO IN PAST REPORTEDLY HAS ARGUED AGAINST LIFTING
STATE OF SIEGE. EMB BELIEVES ANOTHER APPROACH WHICH MIGHT
CONTRIBUTE TO TIPPING BALANCE IN FAVOR OF LIFTING STATE OF SIEGE
WOULD BE IF CONGRESSMAN JOHN MURPHY (D-NY) WERE TO
BELIEVE THIS WOULD FURTHER U.S.-NICARAGUAN RELATIONS. IN
ANY CASE, EMB BELIEVES IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR MURPHY,
BECAUSE OF HIS INTEREST IN U.S.-NICARAGUAN RELATIONS,
INVOLVEMENT IN LONG SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS, AND CLOSENESS TO
PRESIDENT SOMOZA, TO BE BRIEFED BY BRAY AND PEZZULO ON DEPT
APPROACH AND DIFFICULTY DEPT SEES IN MAINTAINING COOPERATIVE
RELATIONSHIP UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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